

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012627

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, UR

SUBJECT: REPORT OF FRENCH-SOVIET COOPERATION IN COMPUTER
FIELD

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS QUOTED FROM THE SWISS-SOVIET
JOINT PUBLICATION "ECOTASS" OF DECEMBER 12, 1976:
QUOTE: SOVIET-FRENCH GROUP IN SESSION
SOVIET AND FRENCH SPECIALISTS IN THE FIELD OF DEVELOPMENT,
MANUFACTURING AND USING ELECTRONIC COMPUTERS MET IN
MOSCOW FOR THE 9TH SESSION OF THEIR JOINT WORKING GROUP.
THE MEETING, DEDICATED TO THE RESULTS OF THE WORKING
GROUP'S ACTIVITIES IN 1976, NOTED THE RISING
EFFECTIVENESS OF JOINT WORK ON ALL THE ELEVEN THEMES
LAUNCHED. SPECIALLY SUCCESSFUL IS THE WORK TO CREATE
A LARGE INFORMATION-RETRIEVAL SYSTEM IN THE ELECTRICAL
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ENGINEERING INDUSTRY BASED ON THE SOVIET-MADE "MINSK-32"
ELECTRONIC COMPUTER AND THE FRENCH "IRIS-50" MACHINE.
A DATA BANK AND A CONVERSION DEVICE HAVE ALREADY BEEN
COMPLETED, WHICH ALLOW THE MACHINES TO EXCHANGE LARGE
INFORMATION FILES. THIS WORK GOES ON AT THE "INFORMELEKTRO"
INSTITUTE WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ENGINEERS FROM THE
COMPANY "CII-HB".

IT WAS DECIDED TO PREPARE CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR A JOINT PROGRAMME WITH THE USE OF THE FRENCH "IRIS-80" MACHINE AND SOVIET SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENTS FOR A TEN-YEAR PERIOD. THE MEETING ALSO COMMENDED THE ACTIVITIES OF ITS ECONOMIC SUBGROUP IN REALIZING COMMERCIAL TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF AUTOMATIC CONTROL SYSTEMS FOR AIR TRAFFIC AND THE MANUFACTURE OF MULTI-LAYER PRINTED-CIRCUIT CARDS. UNQUOTE.

2. GIVEN THE VAGARIES OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, REPORTS OF THIS TYPE INVOLVING COCOM MEMBER COUNTRIES CAUSES US TO ASK WHETHER COCOM UNDERSTANDINGS MAY BE VIOLATED. SINCE SOME OF THE ACTIVITY MENTIONED IN GENERAL TERMS ABOVE COULD WELL BE IN CONTRAVENTION OF COCOM REGULATIONS, WE SUGGEST THAT THE U.S. DEL QUERY HIS FRENCH COUNTERPART AS TO PAST AND PROSPECTIVE ACTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS BILATERAL AGREEMENT. PERHAPS THE FIRST QUESTION TO BE ANSWERED IS WHETHER THE FRENCH PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT (GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND/OR PRIVATE FIRMS) ARE AWARE OF THE COCOM RESTRICTIONS ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND ITS EFFECT ON NATIONAL SECURITY.

3. WE WOULD WELCOME CLARIFICATION OF THIS ISSUE BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION.
KISSINGER

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Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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